

The effect of the cinematograph on the eyes finally depends upon the individual himself. Some persons can attend daily without evil results while others cannot stay through a single picture without ocular fatigue. This depends to a great extent upon the nervous predisposition and those with this idiosyncrasy should remain away from the cinematograph.

APPENDICITIS: THEN AND NOW.

By JNO. C. KING, M. D., Banning.

I report the following case merely as an illustration of the change that has occurred during the past thirty years in the attitude of the profession toward appendicitis. In the summer of 1880 I attended a case of what we then called peri-typhilitis. An abscess formed. The patient became very ill. I requested a consultation with a view to operation. The consultant, an able man of large experience, decided that operation was unjustifiable and advised ointment of iodide of potassium, well rubbed in. Forty-eight hours later, feeling that operation was imperative, I sent to Cincinnati for a well-known surgeon, professor of surgery in a college there. Upon examination he declared the man would die under any circumstances; that he would not risk his reputation by operating; that aspiration of the pus was the only thing good surgery demanded. (He kindly offered to send me an aspirator.) The patient was becoming septic; so, after another forty-eight hours, I insisted upon opening him. He gave consent. I asked a number of physicians to give ether, but, although several of them had anesthetized patients for me for other purposes, none would give ether in this instance, deeming it improper to attempt operation. I finally told the man to get another doctor; that I felt he would die unless the pus could be removed; that none of my friends would assist me in doing what I thought needful. He replied that I could go ahead without an anesthetic; that he could stand it if I could. The patient's brother had threatened to kill any one who would attempt to cut him; so, while his wife stood guard at the door, I cautiously opened the abscess. It is difficult to realize that what we now deem so simple and necessary a procedure should then have been considered so absolutely wrong. The tension in the abscess was such that the pus spurted up not less than an inch when the knife reached it. I evacuated all I could and dressed the wound. Before my return the next day, one of my colleagues, a leading man, visited the patient unbidden, removed the dressings and examined the wound, notwithstanding the protest of the wife. He declared the man would die; that I had been guilty of malpractice; that he would be glad to be called upon as a witness in the prosecution that he knew must follow; that he had taken the liberty of examining the patient before death with that end in view. A year ago Dr. T. B. Wright, of Pasadena, brought to me a message from the patient, Col. M. V. B. L., of Circleville, Ohio, to the effect that he was still living. This story is amusing and almost incredible now, but thirty-two years ago it meant a real battle for a very young and fairly ignorant surgeon.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE TUBERCULOSIS COMMISSION.*

By GEORGE H. KRESS, M. D., Los Angeles, Chairman of the Commission.

The particular reason for giving the California State Tuberculosis Commission a place on this

morning's program was to officially and briefly call to the attention of the members of the State Medical Society, somewhat of the nature of this newly formed commission and of some of the things it hoped to do.

As you all know, the last legislature appropriated five thousand dollars, to be spent by a special tuberculosis commission to be appointed by the California State Board of Health, this commission to use this money to "ascertain the effects of localities, employments, conditions and circumstances on the health of those developing tuberculosis, and to determine the best means of eradication thereof."

After a good deal of preliminary correspondence by Dr. Wm. F. Snow, the State Health Board Secretary, with all the anti-tuberculosis societies and others known to be interested in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis in California, the State Board of Health decided to appoint a State Tuberculosis Commission consisting of an executive committee of five and an advisory board of fifty.

The State Board of Health appointed on the executive board of five the following persons:

Dr. C. C. Browning of Los Angeles, Miss Katherine Felton of San Francisco, Dr. R. G. Broderick of San Francisco, Mr. A. Bonnheim of Sacramento, Dr. George H. Kress of Los Angeles, chairman.

The executive board held its first meeting at Sacramento last fall and it was then decided, in joint session with the State Board of Health, that the local headquarters for the work of investigation should be the office of the State Board of Health at Sacramento, where access could be had to all the vital statistics of the state, and where the other trained assistants of the State Health Board as well as the special employees of the Tuberculosis Commission could be under the constant supervision of our efficient State Health Board Secretary, Dr. Wm. F. Snow.

It was also decided that the Advisory Board of fifty prominent physicians and laymen interested in the prevention of tuberculosis, should be divided into ten sub-committees, each of which sub-committees was to have as its chairman one of the members of the Executive Committee, the idea here being to centralize the responsibility of the actual work of the members of the Executive Board, so that at the quarterly meetings of that Executive Board it might be possible to have a first hand knowledge of the work in progress.

The divisions of these ten special lines of investigation and the personnel of the complete commission, are as follows:

1. Institutional Activities: Administration. Dr. Browning, chairman.

2. Institutional Activities: Construction. Dr. Browning, chairman. The construction and administration of sanatoria, hospitals, dispensaries, camps, etc., are included in the work of these committees as well as home treatment and general prophylaxis.

3. School Construction and Health Administration of Schools. Miss Felton, chairman.

* Report to the annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California at Del Monte, Cal., on April 17, 1912.

4. Housing Conditions. Miss Felton, chairman. The work of these committees refers to open air and out-door schools, medical inspection of school children; also, general housing conditions—in homes, tenements, factories, hotels and lodging houses.

5. Sociologic and Economic Conditions. Dr. Kress, chairman.

6. Legal Procedure. Dr. Kress, chairman. Special attention will be given by these committees to statistical work, showing the relation of tuberculosis to daily life, and economic and sociologic conditions. The gathering of legal information and the advising of the Executive Board regarding proposed legislation, based upon the experience of other commonwealths and upon present conditions in this State, will be a duty of these committees.

7. Scientific Problems. Dr. Brodrick, chairman.

8. Educational Measures. Dr. Brodrick, chairman. The study of scientific data relative to human and bovine tuberculosis, their prophylaxis, etiology and methods of transmission; and the education of the public by means of literature, press reports, sermons, exhibitions, demonstrations and the like, will be undertaken by these committees.

9. Industrial and Commercial Problems. Mr. Bonnheim, chairman.

10. Registration and Disinfection. Mr. Bonnheim, chairman. These committees will take up an occupational investigation of tuberculosis and will study the problems dealing with transportation, fumigation, reporting of cases and deaths, proper disinfection, etc.

The personnel of the ten committees is as follows:

1. Institutional Activities: Administration. Dr. Chas. C. Browning, chairman, Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow, Dr. Robert A. Peers, Dr. Frederick W. Hatch, Miss Margaret B. Curry.

2. Institutional Activities: Construction. Dr. Browning, chairman, Dr. Edward von Adelung, Dr. Gayle G. Moseley, Dr. Chas. H. Whitman, Mrs. Samuel Brust, Mr. John E. Hoyle.

3. Construction and Health Administration of Schools. Miss Katherine Felton, chairman, Dr. N. K. Foster, Dr. Geo. F. Reinhardt, Prof. J. H. Francis, Mrs. M. W. Kincaid, Dr. Richard G. Boone.

4. Housing Conditions. Miss Katherine Felton, chairman, Miss Alice Griffith, Rev. Dana Bartlett, Mr. Walter Macarthur, Dr. Philip King Brown, Mr. J. J. Bakewell, Jr.

5. Sociologic and Economic Conditions. Dr. George H. Kress, chairman, Mr. A. B. Nye, Mr. Frederick W. Dohrmann, Dr. John C. King, Mr. Thomas F. Griffen, Mrs. Robert O. Moody.

6. Legal Procedure. Dr. George H. Kress, chairman, Mr. Chas. A. Bliss, Dr. John L. Avey, Mr. A. E. Boynton, Mr. J. E. Gardner, Mr. W. A. Sutherland.

7. Scientific Problems. Dr. R. G. Brodrick, chairman, Dr. Frederick P. Gay, Dr. Wm.

Ophuls, Dr. F. M. Pottenger, Dr. C. M. Haring, Dr. Geo. H. Hart.

8. Educational Measures. Dr. R. G. Brodrick, chairman, Mr. Edward Hyatt, Rev. D. O. Crowley, Rev. Chas. F. Aked, Rabbi Martin A. Meyer, Mr. Frederick S. Withington.

9. Industrial and Commercial Problems. Mr. A. Bonnheim, chairman. Dr. Geo. C. Pardee, Dr. Geo. E. Tucker, Dr. Minerva Goodman, Mr. John I. Nolan, Mr. Chas. H. Bentley.

10. Registration and Disinfection. Mr. A. Bonnheim, chairman. Dr. Wm. C. Voorsanger, Mr. C. B. Boothe, Dr. H. N. Morrison, Mr. A. Caminetti, Mr. L. D. Bohnett.

Special Consultants and Auxiliary Workers.

In addition to these administrative boards constituting the officially appointed Commission, many persons have undertaken important special work in connection with the investigation. A large number of women's clubs, medical societies, labor associations and other organizations have appointed representatives to obtain accurate data on social and economic phases of the problem in various districts of California. A smaller number of experts in welfare organization work is volunteering a considerable amount of personal time for the study of special matters under consideration by the several committees.

Thus far two meetings of the Executive Board have been held at Sacramento, and this Board will be in session with the State Board of Health at this Del Monte meeting of the State Medical Society, and you are, each and all of you, cordially invited to present to the Commission or its members, any suggestions as to fields of investigation or methods of conducting the same which you may think desirable or needed.

During the last six months or so the statisticians of the State Tuberculosis Commission have been analyzing the tuberculosis mortality cards on file in the State Health Office at Sacramento, and already some most interesting facts have been brought out and charts and tables constructed.

We urge all of you who wish to know more of this work and who have not yet received a copy of the same, to write to the California State Board of Health for the special December California Tuberculosis Commission number of the Bulletin of the California State Board of Health, in which is presented by Dr. Snow and others an outline of some of the work already accomplished.

Time forbids at this meeting the discussion in detail of some of these interesting figures and investigations, but all who are interested will find an excellent presentation of some of them by Dr. Snow on pages 143 to 146 of the December, 1911, State Health Board Bulletin already referred to.

One thought which we wish to especially emphasize at this time is that every one of you is looked upon as an advisory and volunteer worker of the State Tuberculosis Commission, and we most earnestly urge each and all of you to co-operate to the fullest possible extent, in the effort now being made to secure mortality and morbidity

statistics in relation to tuberculosis and to elaborate more fully the sociologic and economic significance of these tuberculosis figures.

Once this information is at hand, we will have the premises upon which we can base our conclusions and our recommendations to the next legislature concerning the responsibilities of the legislature in the prevention and cure of tuberculosis as it exists in California.

At this time the Tuberculosis Commission has no settled conclusions as to what shall or shall not be recommended to the legislature, for until now we have been engaged in gathering the information from which intelligent recommendations must necessarily be made. Many of the facts needed are still lacking and for these we must depend largely upon the members of the medical profession. We beg of each of you, therefore, that you promptly seek and give to the Commission the information it needs, when you receive postcards and other requests from time to time in regard to present or former patients. If you each will do this, it will be possible to creditably fulfil the function for which the Commission was appointed. If you fail us in this, then the Commission and the State Health Board must likewise fail in its efforts in just that same proportion.

In conclusion, we again repeat that we urge each and all of you to communicate with the Commission or its members, either in writing or verbally, as regards any work you think should be undertaken or as to scope of work already started. In all this the State Health Board and the State Tuberculosis Commission feel they are your servants, and it is their desire to bring in a report that will be creditable to the medical profession and which will pave the way, in some measure, for a solution of this great tuberculosis problem of California, which grows more menacing as each year goes by.

SOCIETY REPORTS **PROCEEDINGS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO** **COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

During the month of June, 1912, the following meetings were held by the San Francisco County Medical Society:

Section of Medicine, June 4, 1912.

1. Feeding in First Month of Life. Dr. Adelaide Brown.
2. The Principles Underlying the Feeding of Infants. Dr. Langley Porter.
3. Feeding in Later Infancy. Dr. H. H. Yerington. (To be published in Calif. State Journal.) Discussed by Drs. Sanford Blum, G. D. Culver, A. S. Keenan, Adelaide Brown, Langley Porter and H. H. Yerington.

Regular Meeting, June 11, 1912.

1. The Therapeutic Value of Injections of Deep Sea Water. Dr. F. C. Keck.

A summary of this paper having evidently been furnished the San Francisco Examiner by interested parties previous to the meeting, the Publication Committee of this Journal would refer its readers to the San Francisco Examiner of June 12, 1912.

Section on Surgery, June 18, 1912.

1. Presentation of Case of Skin Grafting: Transplanting of Flaps. Dr. George Rothganger.
2. A Recent Case of Lipectomy. Illustrated by lantern slides. Dr. H. Edward Castle. (To be published in Calif. State Journal.)

3. Prostatectomy in Man of 83 Years. Dr. H. B. A. Kugeler. (To be published in Calif. State Journal.)

Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Section, June 25, 1912.

1. Exhibition of Case of Oxycephalus. (X-ray plates.)
2. Report of Case of Tuberculosis of Mastoid in Baby of 2 months and 10 days. Illustrated by microscopic slides.
3. Report of Case of Fistula of Temporal Bone. Dr. H. B. Graham.
4. Report of Case of Carcinoma and Sarcoma of Larynx.
5. Exhibition of Case of Laryngeal Sarcoma (?). Dr. A. S. Green.
6. Review of Some Recent Italian Literature. Dr. V. F. Lucchetti.
7. A New Supplementary Method of Localizing Foreign Bodies in the Eye, with Review of Older Methods. Ferdinand Freytag, Ph. D. (To be published in Calif. State Journal.)

SOCIETY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO POLYCLINIC.

Wednesday, June 5, 1912. 8:30 p. m.

1. Report of Several Cases of Gassereotomy Accompanied by Demonstrations. Dr. J. Henry Barbat. Discussed by Drs. H. E. Castle and C. G. Levison.
2. Four Years of Clinical Study in Medical Tuberculosis. Dr. Philip King Brown.
3. The Palliative Treatment of Terminal Laryngeal Tuberculosis. Dr. Henry Horn. Presentation of Case. Discussed by Drs. H. S. Moore and J. J. Kingwell.
4. Spinal Curvature. Dr. J. T. Watkins. Discussed by Dr. G. J. McChesney.

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

BUTTE COUNTY.

The Butte County Medical Society held its meeting for June in Chico and had an unusually large attendance of guests from other counties. It was decided to raise funds by assessment for the purpose of prosecuting illegal practitioners.

The regular meeting of Butte County Medical Society was held Tuesday evening, June 11, at the dining-room of the Park Hotel. A "Dutch" supper was served after the meeting. The Society was represented by members from different parts of the county, two members coming from Orland, Glenn county. Those present were: Drs. J. H. M. Karsner and T. B. Rearden from Oroville; Dr. L. Q. Thompson of Gridley, Dr. S. Igllick and Dr. Samuel Goldman of Orland. Dr. Middleton Stansbury of Hamilton City and Drs. C. L. Browning, O. Stansbury, P. L. Hamilton, and Ella F. Gatchell of Chico. After the banquet, the time was devoted to discussion on different matters of business. Voted to add \$1.00 to present assessment to be used in prosecuting illegal practitioners. The matter of contract practice was discussed by the members. Voted to lay on table.

ELLA F. GATCHELL, Secretary.

NORTHERN DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The Northern District Medical Society, Dr. Peers, President, met at Colfax, June 11th, and had a very well attended meeting. A number of excellent papers were read and it is probable that some of them will appear later in the Journal.

ORANGE COUNTY.

The annual meeting of the Orange County Medical Society was held at the Anaheim Sanitarium in May. Dr. Ida B. Parker was elected President, Dr. John Wehrly, Secretary, and Dr. H. S. Gordon Treasurer. The meeting was largely in the nature of a social one and the banquet and speeches were enjoyed by the large number of members present.